

VESSELS TO HONOR

2 Timothy 2:20-21

2 Timothy 2:20 *Great house*: visible, organized church; Compare to a stately mansion.

Vessels: utensils

Gold, silver: honorable materials; great value; give dignity

Wood and earth: dishonorable materials: Ignominy; disgrace, contempt.

Context: True teachers vs false teachers

A faithful, godly, studious teacher--gold or silver vessel

1 Samuel 2:30 ... *them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*

Acts 9:15 ... *for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*

Acts 13:2 ... *Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*

How know vessel unto honor?

Master made to look good.

Who is master? Jesus!

Vessels to dishonor: Discredit master.

Object lessons of what not to be like.

Moule: *Object lessons of the power of evil, of the deceitfulness of sin, of the awful treachery of man's heart.*

2 Timothy 2:21 *Purge*: cleanse out; clean thoroughly, avoid defilement

House cleaning and confessing and forsaking sin; complete repentance.

From these: 1. Things dishonorable to Lord; discredit the cause of Christ, 2. False teachers (vessels)

he shall be a vessel unto honour: Great value for cause of Christ. Useable

Master not embarrassed or ashamed of putting on display.

Sanctified: Set apart for worship and service of God

Meet for the Master's use: easy to make use of, useful, useable; fit, qualified, approved, meet requirements.

Master: Lord, undisputed ownership. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Acts 20:28

...prepared unto every good work. Equipped.

How equipped to serve God?

1. Purging: short sin accts with God.

2. Sanctification: godly separation

One condition—vessels must be clean.

Stott: *Purity of doctrine and purity of life is the essential condition of being serviceable to Christ.*

...meet for the master's use: Awesome thought—Jesus choose to use me

Psalms 84:11; Jeremiah 16:9

Livingston: *March 19, my birthday. My Jesus, my King, my Life, my all. I again dedicate my whole self to Thee. Accept me, and grant, O gracious Father, that ere the year is gone I may finish my work. In Jesus' name I ask it, Amen.*

Nicholas of Flue: *O Lord, take from me what keeps me from thee; give me what brings me to thee; and take myself and give me thyself.*

Dr. Howard A. Kelly: *I dedicate myself, my time, my capabilities, my ambition, everything to Him. Blessed Lord, sanctify me to Thy uses. Give me no worldly success which may not lead me nearer to my Saviour!*

Unknown

*One day I looked at myself,
At the self that Christ can see;
I saw the person I am today
And the one I ought to be.
I saw how little I really pray,
How little I really do;
I saw the influence of my life—
How little of it was true!
I saw the bundle of faults and fears
I ought to lay on the shelf;
I had given a little bit to God,
But I hadn't given myself.
I came from seeing my self,
With the mind made up to be
The sort of person that Christ can use
With a heart He may always see.*

SO WHAT?

1. What kind of a vessel am I? Honor or dishonor?

2 Timothy 2:20 *But in a great house (WBC) there are not only vessels (Christians) of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour (great spiritual value—their lifestyle brings dignity to the Lord), and some to dishonour (lifestyle brings reproach, disgrace, contempt both to the Lord and to the church).*

2. How do I become a vessel unto honor?

3. Do I want God to use me?

2 Timothy 2:21 *If a man therefore purge himself from these* (If a disgraceful Christian, one bringing reproach to the name of Christ by his lifestyle, will confess all known sin and start over with a new desire to be clean and pure), *he shall be a vessel unto honour* (glorify and dignify the name of Christ), *sanctified* (set apart, separated from the world and unto God), *and meet* (useable) *for the master's use, and prepared* (equipped, qualified) *unto every good work.*